

**MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL DISTRICTS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE POLITICAL  
SUBDIVISIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, November 13, 2007 – 1:00 p.m. Room W125  
House Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Dennis Stowell  
Sen. Fred J. Fife  
Rep. Fred R Hunsaker  
Rep. Kerry W. Gibson  
Rep. Christine A. Johnson

**Staff Present:**

Joseph Wade, Policy Analyst  
Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel  
Wendy Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present, copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Stowell called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

No minutes were available to consider.

**2. Special Districts**

Mr. Robert H. Rees, Subcommittee Staff Attorney, distributed and reviewed changes recently made to 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Limited Purpose Local Government Entities Revisions." He included recommendations from the "working group."

Discussion of the rewrite/recodification of the special district statutes continued.

**MOTION:** Rep. Hunsaker moved to delete:

Line 225:           after "activities," delete "including providing free off-street parking; and"

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Rees explained the proposed changes to the process of creating a local district by reducing the percentages needed in order to request services and the percentages of land owners needed to petition for the creation of a local district.

Mr. Legrand Bitter, Utah Association of Special Districts, spoke in favor of the changes, explaining the benefits of using a similar process to form local districts and special service districts.

Mr. Ron Mortenson, Citizens for Taxpayers, expressed concern for the possible need to create additional taxing entities and recommended raising the percentages and requiring a double majority instead of lowering the percentages of voters needed to create a district.

Mr. Rees explained that a special service district is captive to the county that created it and bonds and taxes must be approved by voters. A local district, which is not captive, must also be created by the voters in that area. The two processes used to create either of those entities are the same: by petition and voted on by the property owners or by resolution of the city and voted on by the voters in that area. The proposed change in the statute would only reduce the percentage of voters it would take to begin the process.